

12% of both the smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air compared with 1964 (figures kindly supplied by the Dartford Borough Council).

It is interesting to note that although *E. sororcula* appears not to have been recorded from the woodlands of N.W. Kent since 1863 until recently, it was still to be found at Chattenden some ten miles to the east, where the degree of atmospheric pollution was probably considerably less, not uncommon in the 1880s and even in the first decade of this century (Chalmers-Hunt, 1961).—B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

A somatic mosaic of *Cosmia trapezina* Linnaeus (Lep.: Noctuidae), the Dun Bar

The aberration in Fig. 1 was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Empingham, Leicestershire (Site No. 280, O.S. Grid Ref. SK 953 087) on 26.viii.1986. The left half conforms approximately to ab *pallida* Tutt and the right appears most similar to the type form *trapezina* L. (Tutt, J.W. (1982) *The British Noctuae and their Varieties*, 3: 22-23. Swan, Sonnenschein, London), though with such a variable species it is difficult to be precise.

No similar specimen is present in the national Lepidoptera collection at the Natural History Museum and there is no somatic mosaic listed under *C. trapezina* in A.L. Goodson's list of aberrational forms (unpubl.) which is held at the same institute.

The name *pallida-trapezina* nov. is proposed for this aberration and the type specimen will be held at Rothamsted Experimental Station.

Thanks are extended to M. Tyler for operating the trap at Empingham and to D. Carter for allowing access to the collections and literature at the Natural History Museum, London.—A.M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology and Nematology, AFRC Inst. Arable Crops Res., Rothamsted Exp. Stn., Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.



Fig. 1. *Cosmia trapezina* L. ab. *pallida-trapezina* nov. Type male. Empingham, Leics. 26.viii.1986.